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STATEMENT ISSUED ON BURNING OF HEADQUARTERS

P.I.M. Vows Justice For 'Arsonists'

By FRANK RAMOS

The political committee of the Pro Independence Movement pledged yesterday to bring to justice those responsible for the fire that destroyed the organization's headquarters in Rio Piedras Sunday night.

In a statement issued at a press conference in the La Marlinquina Restaurant yesterday the committee members declared:

"If for some reason the Puerto Rican government cannot find and punish those guilty of the aggression we have suffered, then we will take charge of achieving for ourselves the justice that the government is incapable of guaranteeing."

The lengthy communique, which was read by Secretary-General Lorenzo Pineiro, implied that the Central Intelligence Agency set the fire.

The fire, which caused damages estimated at \$30,000, swept the party headquarters in Rio Piedras. No cause has yet been established.

"All humanity knows the sinister means of conspiracy and sabotage utilized by the C.I.A.," the statement said.

"The burning of the headquarters of political organizations opposed to the imperialistic interests of the United States has

been carried out by the C.I.A. in various places in our plane including the Dominican Republic," the statement continued.

Under questioning by reporters, however, the P.I.M. leader admitted that they had no "concrete evidence" to link the C.I.A. with the fire.

The statement charged that on previous occasions the C.I.A. had attempted to harm the Pro-Independence Movement.

They claimed that the homes of several P.I.M. leaders had been broken into by C.I.A. and F.B.I. agents.

Documents Stolen

In addition, they charged that a former undercover agent of the F.B.I. had once entered the movement's headquarters and had stolen several documents.

The P.I.M. leaders said that the organization's "agility" is such that it would quickly recover from the blow of the fire. They note that plans were already being made to rebuild the organization's Rio Piedras headquarters.

Pineiro also made public telegram he had sent to Gov. Sanchez Monday in regard to the fire. It said in part:

"There is clear evidence that the fire was set by professional at the service of agencies and interests opposed to the liberation of our country.

"The climate created by the organized vandalism, creates such a grave situation that in the name of the P.I.M., I request a high level investigation of the fire.

"We respectfully but firmly declare that if the government fails to proceed as required to put an end to this vandalism that threatens to break the essential unity of the Puerto Rican family then the government which you head will be responsible for the consequences."